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Book review of International Librarianship: Cooperation and Collaboration. Edited by Frances Laverne Carroll and John Frederick Harvey.

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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

International Librarianship: Cooperation and collaboration. Edited by Frances Laverne Carroll, John Frederick Harvey; coordinated by Susan Houck. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press, 2001. Pp. x, 367. ISBN: 0-8108-3921-0

International Librarianship: Cooperation and collaboration is dedicated to Lester Asheim, a “librarian, library educator, internationalist” known to the editors and other contributors. A scholar who produced one of the seminal works in the field, *Librarianship in the Developing Countries*, Dr. Asheim led the ALA’s International Relations Office from 1961 to 1966, during which time he visited 44 countries.

In the preface, the editors define their conception of international librarianship as “about the new ideas in libraries being developed in the twentieth century and often being developed and moved to another country by a librarian or a group of librarians, to make a librarian’s world more global and the community in which the librarian works more understandable for local people.” The book contains 32 chapters divided into five sections.

The book’s initial chapters focus on international cooperation and initiatives, including the text of the School Library Manifesto prepared by IFLA and approved by UNESCO in 1999. There is a basic description of IFLA and its core programs and its emphasis over the last quarter century on the problems faced by libraries beyond Europe and North America. Other chapters range from a report on cultural exchanges to the cross-cultural nature of library structural design.

The next section of the work, entitled “MARCing Time” may be of interest to catalogers of Middle East material. The section’s first chapter describes Israel’s preliminary steps to convert its libraries’ ALEPH records to MARC, and the second chapter very briefly notes Iran’s commencing development of IRANMARC. The last two chapters of the section highlight the integration of the University of São Paulo’s 39 libraries, at 70 sites, and China’s standardization of the Chinese bibliography.

The third section, “Resources and Regional Responsibilities,” includes a chapter that discusses information transfer in an international

context, describing the renewal of the Czech national library as a result primarily of a program funded by the United States Agency for International Development and administered by the Congressional Research Service. A chapter on the European Union Libraries reports the challenges of providing access to the multitude of organizational documents they publish and ends by noting the EU's establishment of one centralized website to access its government in contrast to the several thousand different federal sites of the US government. One of the chapters briefly addresses the status of the information sector in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and then sets forth factors for the GCC nations to consider in developing a workable plan to meet information needs. The author points out that information resources, development of library personnel, cooperation and efficiency of information networking, and the importance of national planning and policies in the context of standardization and compatibility with regional and international systems are critical for achieving international competitiveness.

The work's next section addresses library professional education in several international settings. Beginning with the training challenges faced by Nigerian public libraries, subsequent chapters describe library education and projects in Indonesia, Japan, Pakistan, Thailand, and Brazil. A chapter on librarianship in Iran since 1979 outlines the history of library education in Iran from its early modeling on the American university system through the time of the Cultural Revolution, the reestablishment of library education in the early 1980's, and the development of doctoral level courses in the late 1990's. While the library systems have been permitted to continue using Library of Congress and Dewey Decimal classification schemas, the issues of the lack of standard textbooks in Persian and difficulties in incorporating newer Iranian, more Islamic standards, are also raised.

The book's final chapters highlight innovative work of librarians in three locales. First, in Hungary there are the pioneering efforts of Ervin Szabo to establish a public library system based on the Anglo-American model in Budapest in the early twentieth century. There followed the building in 1970 of a county seat's public library also based on fundamental concepts of the Anglo-American public library related to collection development, reference service, interlibrary loan, and attention to user services promoted by Istran Sallai after the intervening years of the socialist system. The next account reveals the significant contribution of Francis Sharr to the development of library services in Western Aus-

tralia over nearly a quarter century in the mid twentieth century. His career was greatly influenced by his involvement in rewriting a manual on English country library practice. Ideas he was able to implement in Australia included interchangeable library tickets (cards) for all of the region's libraries and the maintenance of special collections in the county libraries. The last chapter is written by the woman who has done more than anyone to promote and engage in marketing public libraries in Sweden, Greta Renborg. She describes the history of marketing libraries in Sweden and advocates using stimulating books to accomplish her goals.

Overall, the contents of this work offer diverse examples of international cooperation and collaboration in librarianship and the transfer of information on librarianship primarily, if the chapters are at all representative, from the Anglo-American traditions and practices to other parts of the globe. This wide geographic distribution of examples is the book's strength, though the individual chapters vary in length and substance. A list of contributors briefly annotated with biographical information, an index, and inclusion of notes and/or references for most chapters enhance the work. This title would be most beneficial for a collection used by library school students and faculty, but could be considered of general interest as well.

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Three Tales of Love and Death. By Out El Kouloub. Translation and Introduction by Nayra Atiya. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2000. Pp. xviii, 137. (hardcover) ISBN: 0-8156-0627-3

Originally published in 1940 in France as *Trois contes de l'amour et de la mort* (Paris : Editions Corrêa, 1940), *Three Tales of Love and Death* is the third work by El Kouloub rendered into English by Nayra Atiya. El Kouloub's previous works (*Ramza*, *Zanouba*) are also published by Syracuse Press. Atiya relates that in all of her works, El Kouloub draws upon her upbringing in a respected Sufi family, a life of seclusion as a youth, as well as her experiences with various levels of society as manager of her father's estate after his death in 1930. Her depictions are sometimes terribly realistic and at other times overwrought stories of love and anguish. But El Kouloub has led a rather dramatic life. At one time El Kouloub was the wealthiest woman in